

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, and 24-42 are pending. Claims 2, 3, and 7-23 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 24-42 have been added.

Applicants note a material error in the published version of this application, U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0057666. Specifically, the last sentence of paragraph [0026] in the as-published application reads, “The gain values range from $\frac{1}{16}$ to $\frac{15}{16}$ with a preferred gain value....”

However, the as-filed specification reads, “The gain values range from $\frac{1}{16}$ to $15\frac{15}{16}$ with a preferred gain value....” (Page 6, Line 15) In other words, the whole number 15 is improperly omitted from the value specified as the upper end of the range. This is a Patent and Trademark Office mistake because the value appears correctly in the as-filed specification. Applicants respectfully request that this error be corrected in any patent to issue from the present application.

Applicants submit formal drawings (11 replacement sheets; 14 figures) herewith and respectfully request that they be made of record.

Claim 16 stands objected to because “said peripheral bus” lacks antecedent basis. The rejection is moot because claim 16 has been cancelled.

Claims 18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (U.S. Pub No. 2002/0080247) (“Takahashi”). The rejection is moot because claims 18 and 21 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-12, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Skow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,173,663) (“Skow”). The rejection is moot with respect to claims 2, 3, 7-12, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, and 23 because these

claims have been cancelled. With respect to claims 1 and 4-6, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, “automatic exposure control and automatic gain control circuit, comprising a translation module for transforming an input data stream into x-y coordinates corresponding to said input data stream, wherein the x-y coordinates define a plurality of tiles corresponding to respective portions of a digital image; global control registers for storing the x-y coordinates and weights associated with said tiles; and a module for adjusting the x-y coordinates such the tiles are concentrated in a region of interest in the digital image and for generating and using a histogram based on said x-y coordinates, said tiles, and said assigned tile weights, said module using said histogram to provide an adjustment to analog exposure and gain control registers.”

Takahashi, by contrast, discloses an exposure control system in which dimensions of weighted image areas (i.e., “tiles”) are fixed. See, for example, FIGS. 6 and 7 of Takahashi illustrating weights assigned to the tiles in a center-weighted mode and a landscape mode, respectively. Although Takahashi does disclose that the weight assigned to each tiles can be varied (e.g., from 0.5 to 1.0 as illustrated in FIGS. 6 and 7), Takahashi fails to teach or suggest “adjusting the x-y coordinates such the tiles are concentrated in a region of interest in the digital image,” as claimed. Compare, for example, Takahashi FIGS. 6 and 7 illustrating fixed tiles with Applicants’ FIG. 1 illustrating adjusted tiles.

The Office Action correctly concludes that Takahashi fails to teach or suggest “a translation module for transforming an input data stream into x-y coordinates corresponding to said input data stream,” as claimed. (Page 3) Therefore, the Office Action relies on Takahashi in combination with Skow. Skow discloses an automatic exposure control system in which (x, y) coordinates are assigned to pixel locations. (Col. 11, Lines 30-37) However, like Takahashi, Skow fails to teach or suggest “adjusting the x-y coordinates such the tiles are concentrated in a region of interest in the digital image,” as claimed. Therefore, Skow cannot cure the failings of

Takahashi and the rejection of claim 1 over the Takahashi and Skow combination should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowed over the Takahashi and Skow combination for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1 an on their own merits. Therefore, the rejection of claims 4-6 should be withdrawn.

Claims 16 and 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lippincott (U.S. Patent No. 5,784,099) ("Lippincott") in view of Takahashi in further view of Skow. The rejection is moot because claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled.

The Office Action Summary indicates that claim 13 is rejected but the Detailed Action fails to set forth the basis for the rejection. Therefore, Applicants are unsure on what grounds claim 13 is rejected. Claim 13 is cancelled, however, so the rejection is moot.

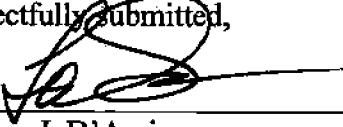
Applicants respectfully submit that each of the new claims is also allowable over the cited art. New independent claims 24 and 34 each recite an adjusting limitation similar to that of claim 1. Therefore, claims 24 and 34 are believed to be allowable over the Takahashi and Skow combination for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1. Dependent claims of claims 24 and 34 each recite additional and different limitations, which are also not taught or suggested by the Takahashi and Skow combination, and provide yet further reasons for allowance.

Though not addressed above because the rejection of claims 16 and 17 is moot, Lippincott is cited merely as disclosing a computer system comprising a processor, a memory, and an input/output device. Applicants do not dispute that systems comprising a processor, a memory, and an input/output device in combination were known in the prior art. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Lippincott, like Takahashi and Skow, fails to teach or suggest the limitations of the amended claims. Therefore, Lippincott cannot cure the failings of the Takahashi and Skow combination described above.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request that it be passed to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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